

Synopsis: I haven't located the pages on life in Russia typed in June, 1962 by Pauline Bates, a Fort Worth public stenographer, for Lee Harvey Oswald. Contrary to several statements in the Warren Report, I don't think Mrs. Bates typed any or all of CE 92.

* * * * *

Read Mrs. Bates' testimony, 8H330-343. She was not asked to identify her own typed work. This deposition was taken on March 25, 1964, well after CE 92 was introduced as evidence during Marina's testimony on February 6, 1964. (See below.) This may indicate that Jenner knew CE 92 was not Bates' work.

From the Warren Report (p. 700): "Soon after he returned to the United States, he hired a stenographer to prepare a typed draft from his notes. (Footnote - 8H330-332, Bates) Oswald described the manuscript, which amounted to 50 typed pages, as "a look into the lives of work-a-day average Russians." (Footnote - CE 92, p. 1) This doesn't quite say that Bates typed any or all of CE 92, but it certainly leaves that impression.

From Marina's testimony, 1H108:

Mr. RANKIN. I should like to inform the Commission that Exhibit 92 purports to be the book that Lee Oswald wrote about conditions in the Soviet Union.

The CHAIRMAN. The one that was dictated to the stenographer?

Mr. RANKIN. Yes, that is right.

Mr. REDLICH. He had had written notes, and she transcribed them.

The typed parts of CE 92 disagree, in most of the significant details, with Mrs. Bates' own description of her work. She said she typed 10 pages; CE 92 has one typed section of 17 pages and another of 32. She single-spaced her work; both parts of CE 92 are double-spaced. She used letter-size paper; the 17-page section of CE 92 is on legal-sized paper. She remembered that Oswald's notes were on odds and ends of paper, of different sizes; the draft from which CE 92 was apparently typed (CE 94) is all on large pieces of paper.

The content of CE 92 is generally similar to what Bates recalled; it does start out about Minsk, but neither typed section ends on Kiev, as she recalled (Bates Exh. 1). However, her recollection of what she typed, as she indicated, is not as solid as the above technical details. For example, Jenner showed her some handwriting by Oswald which he described as "pages 148 through 157 of a bound document on the cover of which appears the title, "Affidavits and Statements Taken In Connection With the Assassination Of The President." (1) (This turns out to be identical to CE 93, the bulk of which was obviously written in 1963.) Mrs. Bates identified this as Oswald's handwriting, and vaguely recalled that "that's the way his notes started out." (8H340)

A further examination of CE 92 supports my claim that Bates did not type any of it, and raises a further question: who did? The first 17 pages, on legal-size paper, were obviously done by a quite competent typist. There are few typographical or spelling errors; blanks were left when Oswald's writing became completely illegible. (e.g., 16H289; cf. 16H351. The use of these blanks is not consistent with work done with Oswald present to help with the transcription, as Mrs. Bates described her work. The 32 letter-sized typed pages were done, it seems, by a considerably less skillful (technically) and less literate typist than the first part. Certainly it is not the quality one would expect from Mrs. Bates. From the corrections, I doubt that Oswald typed it himself.

The significance of these writings, of course, is that they may have been prepared for some intelligence agency, either by prearrangement or as part of a routine briefing. There are lots of candidates for Oswald's contact in Dallas (DeMohrenschildt, Moore, lots of the Russians, etc.)

Why was Oswald working on this material? Mrs. Bates recalled seeing a

note on the letterhead of a Fort Worth engineer who was interested in getting the notes put into book form. (8H336). (This may or may not be Gregory's note on Oswald's ability in Russian, Exhibit 431, published ~~with the letterhead~~ (retyped??, 2H34 removed as CE 384.) (Or it may be Exhibit 219, from (or to?) Kleinlerer.) Gregory remembers seeing the manuscript, but did not read it at all. ~~(2H342-3)~~ (2H342-3). Mrs. Donald Gibson (daughter of George DeM.) read a manuscript of Oswald's (probably CE 95), and discussed it with him, but he resisted her suggestion that he try to have it published, saying "that it was not for people to read." (11H141-2) Robert Oswald wrote that Lee worked on the book for many hours at home, after having had some of it typed by Mrs. Bates (Lee, page 119).

Since it took me some time to figure this out, here is the correlation between exhibit number (Federal Register List) and CE number:

In CE 92, 16H287-296, 298-301, and 304-306 are Exh. 337 (17 pp.)

16H302-3 and 307-336 are Exh. 338 (32 typed pages). The accompanying photos are 16H420 (Marked # 338 here).

CE 94, except maybe for the first sheet, is Exhibit # 116 (See 16H349)

I don't recall any other item on the Federal Register List which might be Mrs. Bates' typing, not do I recall seeing it in the 26 volumes. I can't be sure, however.

I haven't checked the indexes, name files, etc. on Bates. Sylvia's index lists CE 2581 (CD 75, p. 538; p. 537 seems also to be relevant.)

10/21/69
P.L. Hoch